

THE IDENTITY OF *CHAETOCLUSIA AFFINIS*
JOHNSON AND ITS PLACEMENT IN
SOBAROCEPHALA CZERNY
(DIPTERA: CLUSIIDAE)*

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Johnson (1913) described *Chaetoclusia affinis* on the basis of one male and one female from New Jersey. His brief and inadequate description has not allowed subsequent authors to recognize the species and omits discussion of characters later used to define clusiid genera. Melander and Argo (1924) simply repeated Johnson's description and mentioned that they had not seen his material.

I have recently examined the holotype male and allotype female of *C. affinis*, which are housed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (MCZ #7873). It was readily apparent that Johnson had placed the species in the wrong genus, and that *C. affinis* actually belongs in the genus *Sobarocephala* Czerny, not *Chaetoclusia* Coquillett. Both of Johnson's specimens lack the longer, bristle-like hairs on wing vein R₁, which are characteristic of *Chaetoclusia*. Johnson probably placed the species in *Chaetoclusia* because of its densely pubescent antennal arista, a character state found in *Chaetoclusia bakeri* Coquillett, the type species of the genus. This feature, however, is not unique to *Chaetoclusia*, and in fact partially defines the "plumata" species group of *Sobarocephala*, as recognized by Soós (1963).

When *S. affinis* is run through the most recent key to Nearctic *Sobarocephala* (Sabrosky and Steyskal, 1974), it runs without difficulty to *S. testacea* Soós. The holotype male of *S. testacea*, housed in the U. S. National Museum of Natural History, was recently examined and found to be conspecific with *S. affinis*. Johnson's allotype is probably also conspecific, but there is difficulty in separating females of this species from those of *S. muesebecki* Sabrosky and Steyskal. The latter species is known with

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certainty from Florida, and from a questionable specimen from Maryland (see Sabrosky and Steyskal, 1974: 378).

As a result of this study, the following nomenclatural changes result:

Sobarocephala affinis (Johnson), 1913: 101. NEW COMBINATION.

Sobarocephala testacea Soós, 1964: 449. NEW SYNONYMY.

The holotype of *Chaetoclusia affinis* Johnson is in poor condition. It is missing the head and the legs beyond the trochanters, except that the right front femur and tibia are present. I have removed and cleared most of the abdomen, including the male terminalia, and placed them in glycerin in a microvial on the specimen pin, so that they will be better preserved and more useful for future workers. Due to the absence of the head, the male genitalia are the only features of the type that will allow conclusive identification of the specimen.

Because *C. affinis* Johnson really belongs in *Sobarocephala*, this deletes the only species ascribed to *Chaetoclusia* from the Nearctic fauna. The genus is now known only from the Neotropical Region extending from Nicaragua south to Peru, and also Haiti and St. Vincent (Soós, 1968). It seems unlikely that the genus will be found in the Nearctic Region, although its Caribbean distribution makes it just possible that it might someday be found in southern Florida.

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